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Great Thomas prizes to be won!

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 Well timed!

8 Spot the difference!

9 Puzzle fun!

10 Sleepy engine!

12 Turntable trick!

16 All about Toby!

18 Fair play!

21 Join the dots!

22 Competition!

24 Pot luck!

28 Mail train!

31 Thomas Club competition!

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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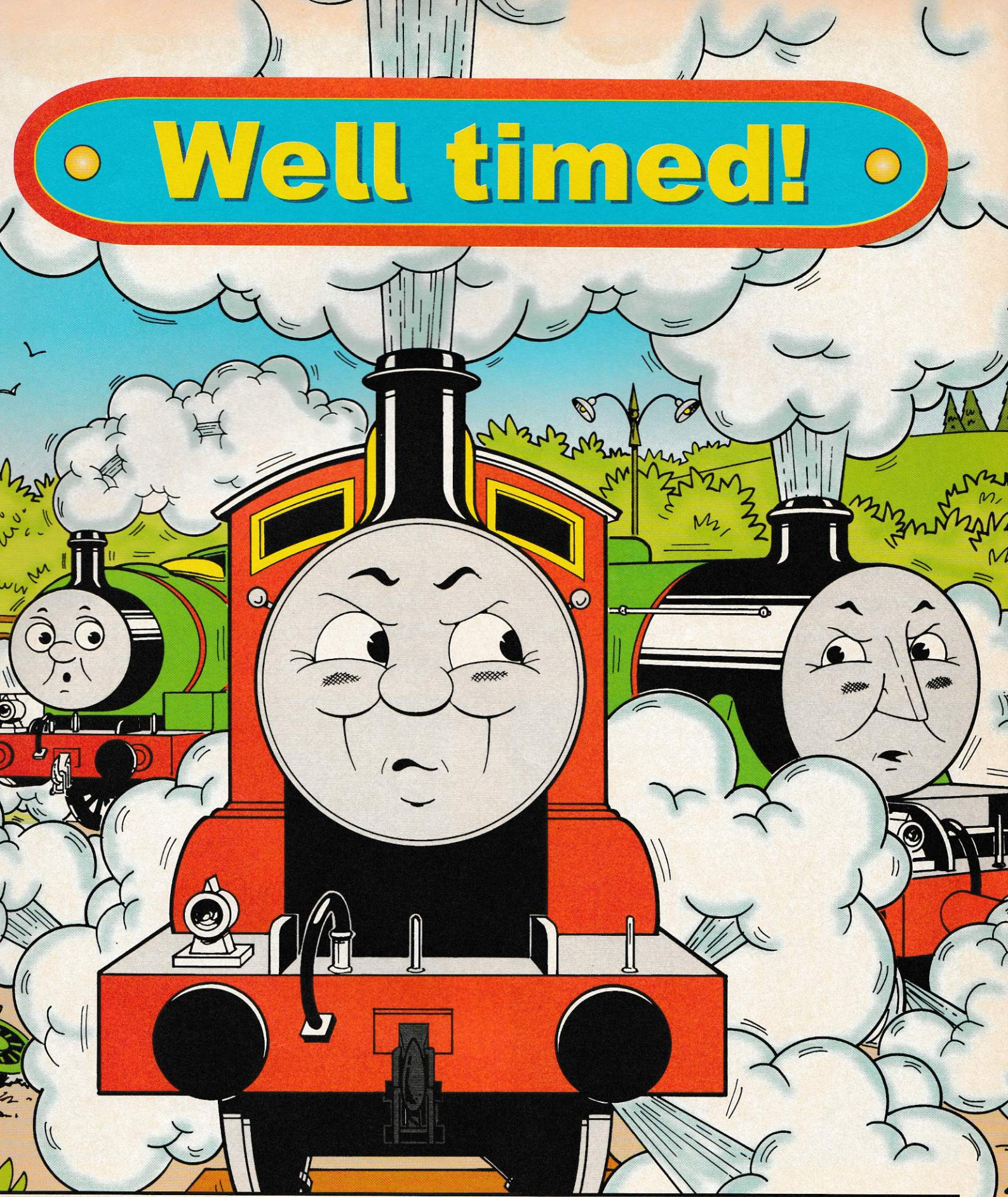
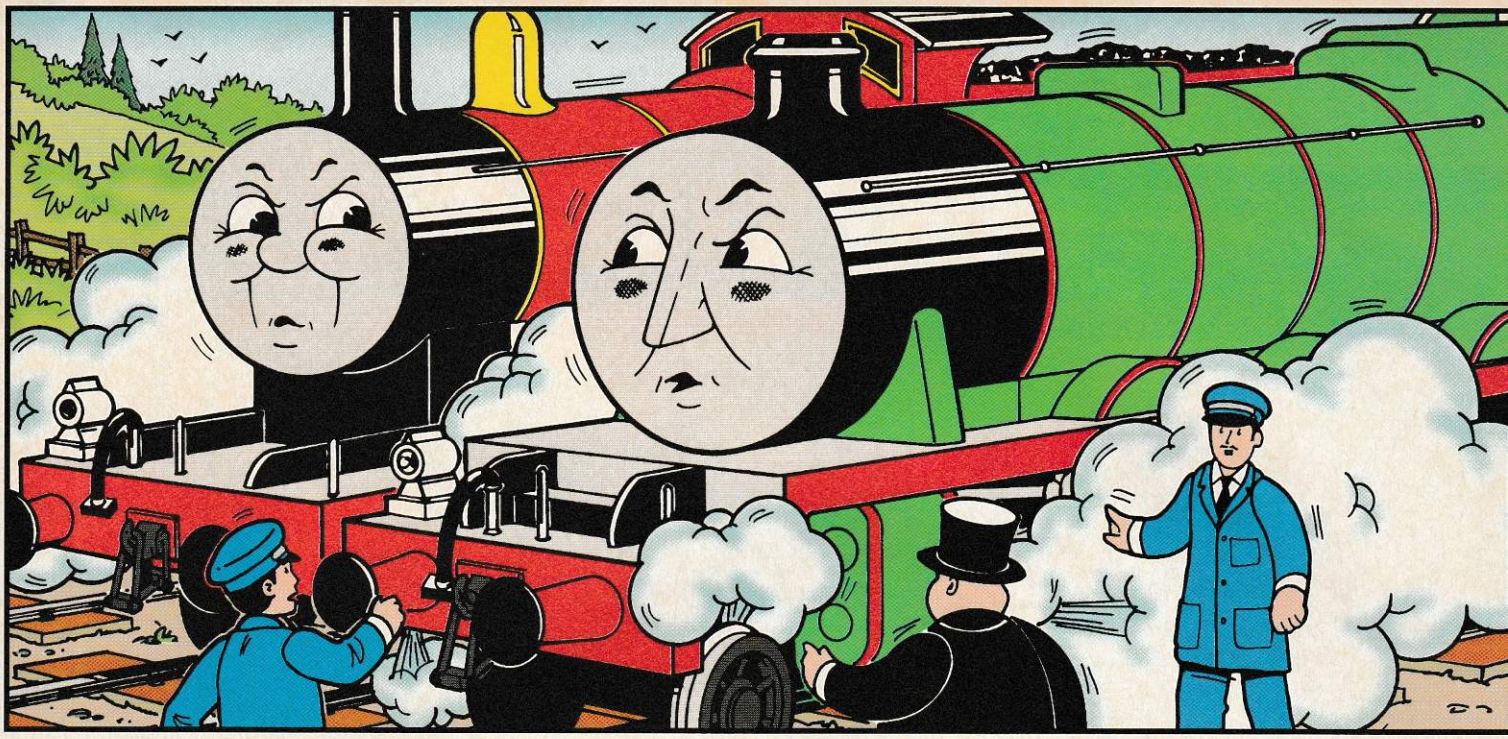
Well timed!



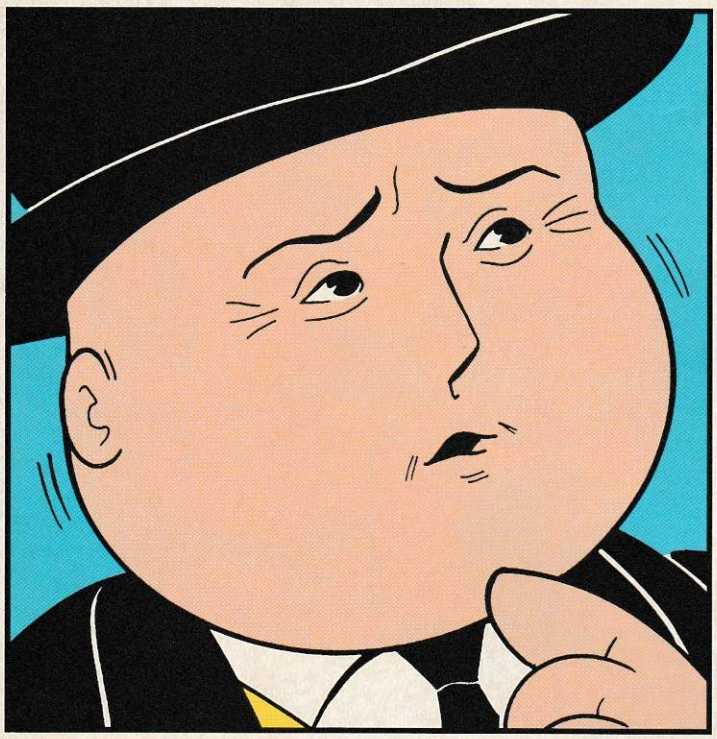
1. Most of the time, all the Fat Controller's engines work well together. But, one morning, two of them were arguing. "I can go faster than you, Henry!" boasted James.

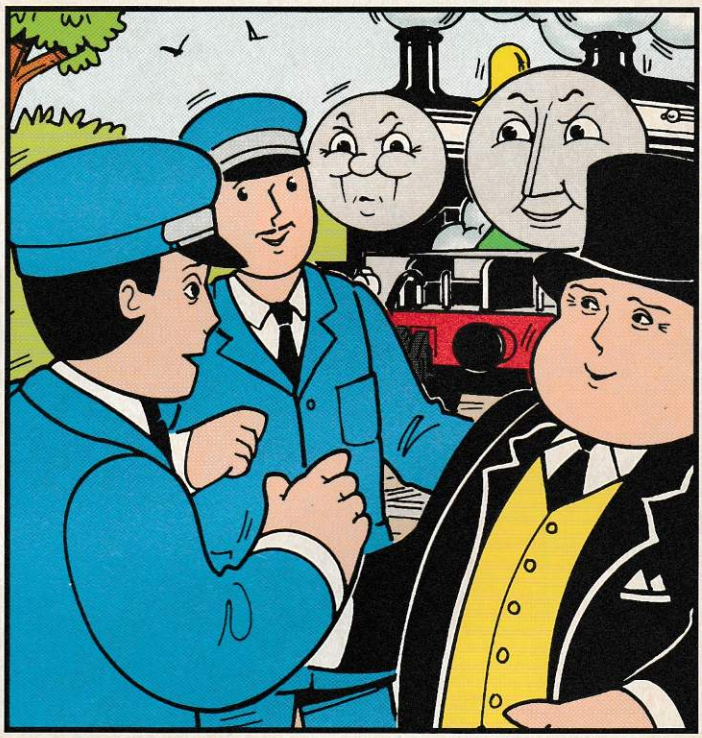
2. "Oh, no, you can't," replied Henry. "You're too puffed up with your own importance, James!" Both engines hissed and fumed crossly. They went very red in the face.



3. "I'll prove I'm faster! Let's have a race!" snorted James. "Pah! I'll leave you standing in a puff of smoke!" cried Henry. Their drivers tried to calm the engines down.

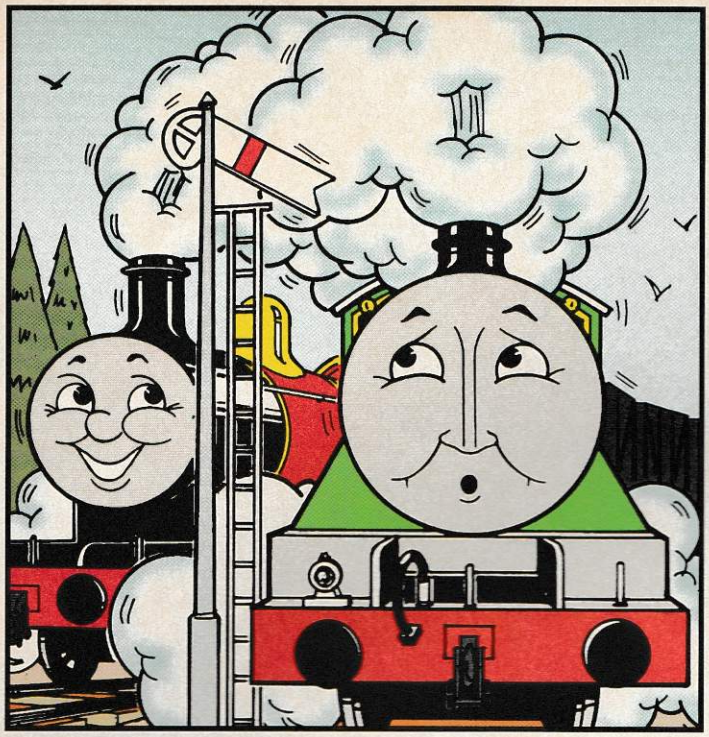
4. The Fat Controller heard the noise. "I don't allow racing," he told them when he learned what was wrong. "It's not safe!" The engines stared sulkily at each other.



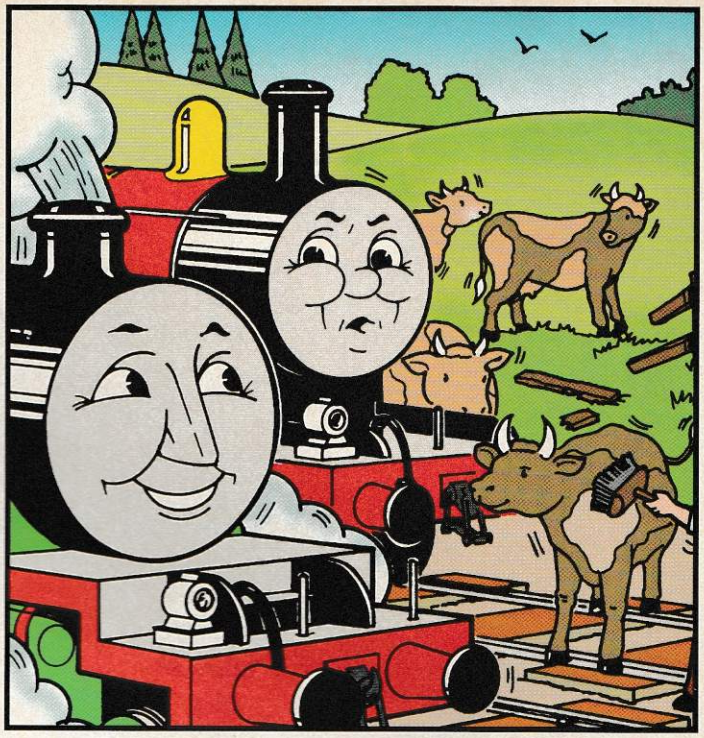


5. "James and Henry won't be happy until they've settled this," said their drivers. The Fat Controller had an idea. "Give them exactly the same jobs to do all week" he said.

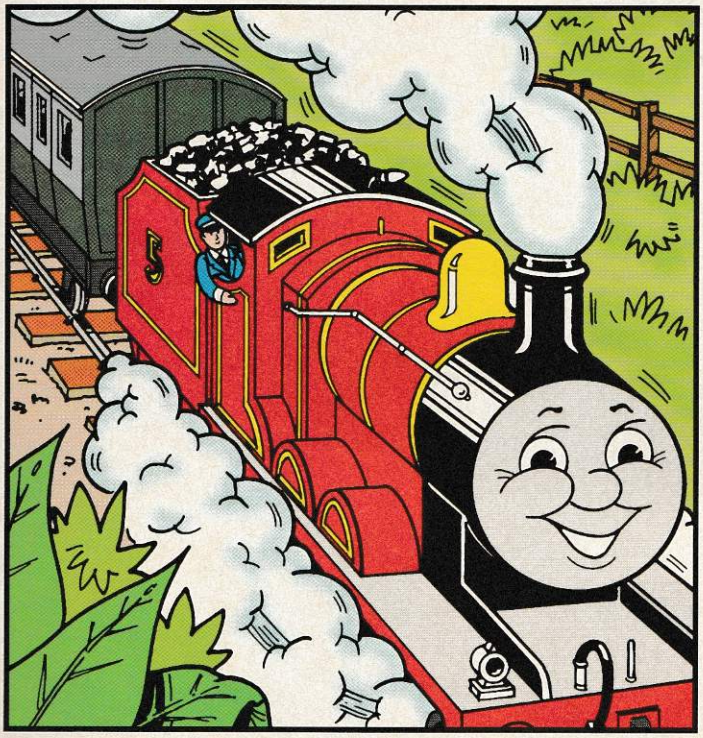
6. The drivers were to time their engines on every run, but Henry and James were not to know. "Then we'll see which engine has worked the fastest!" the Fat Controller added.



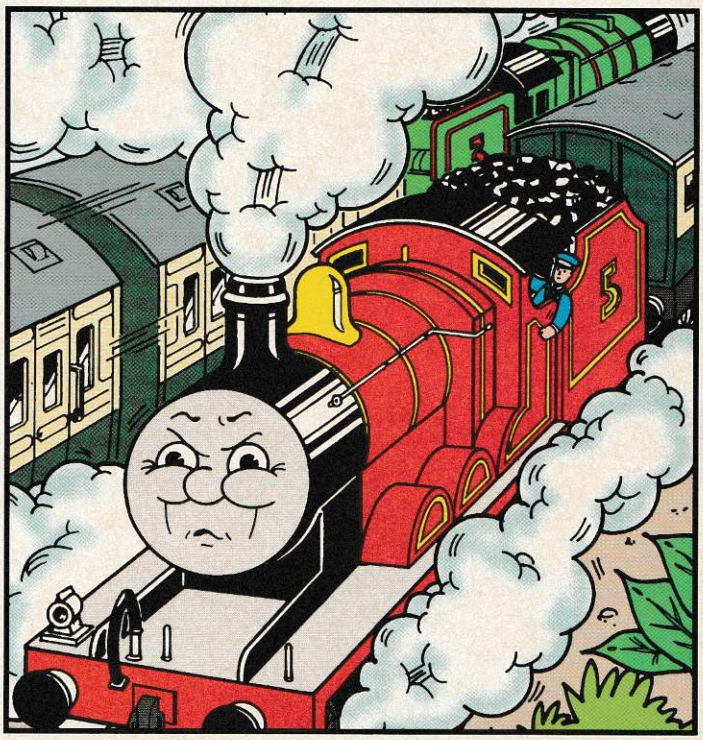
7. That afternoon, Henry had to take a goods train to the Big Harbour. He steamed along. But he was delayed by a signal failure. James passed him on the other line, and laughed.



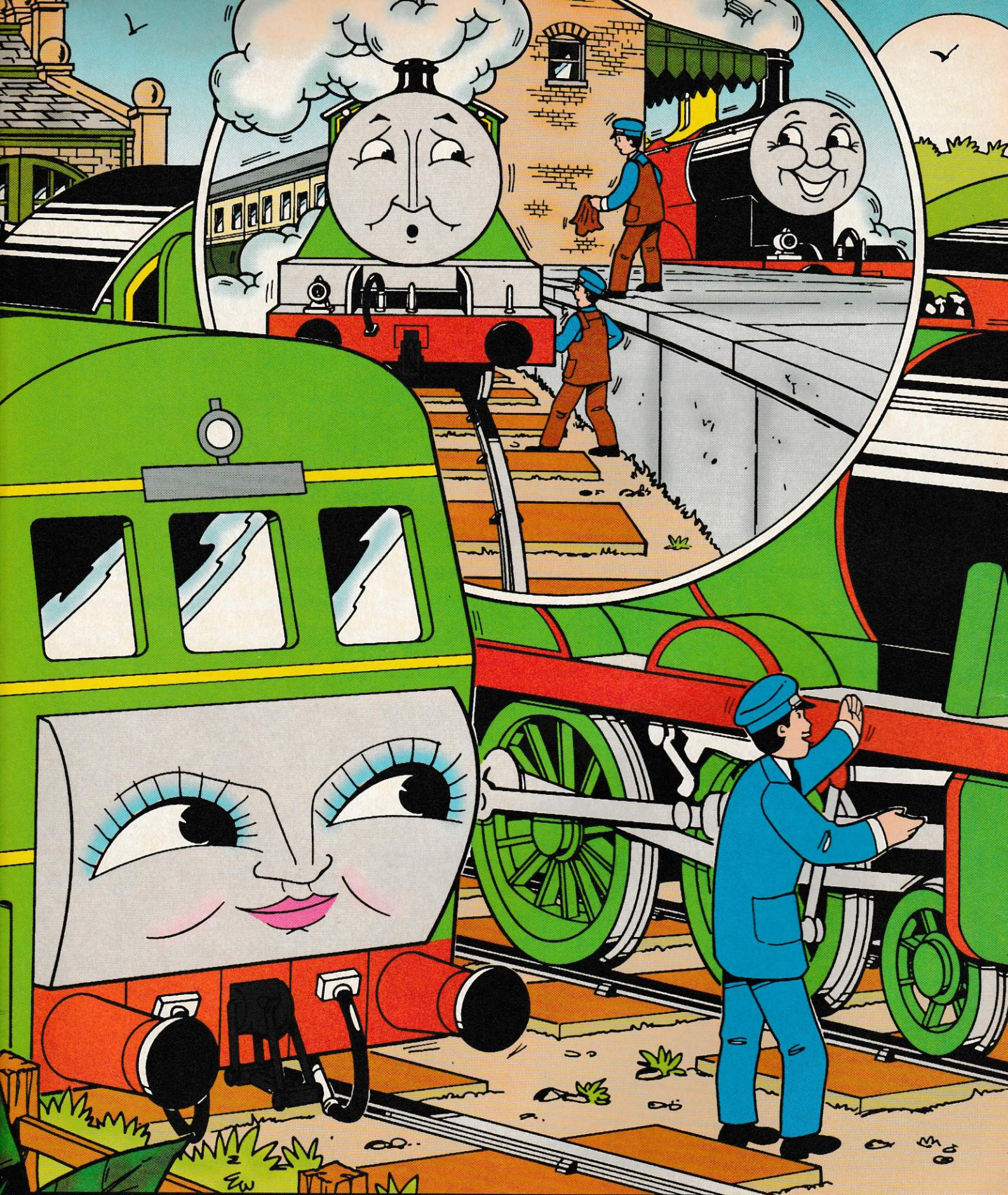
8. It was Henry's turn to smile when James made the same run. James was held up while his crew had to move some cows that had strayed onto the line. He snorted impatiently.



9. Both drivers secretly wrote down the time their engines took to make the trip. The following day, James pulled the Express while Gordon was at the works. James felt very proud.



10. But he soon felt silly when he ran low on coal for his firebox. He could only go slowly. Who should be passing but Henry. "Would you like a push, James?" he called, cheekily.



11. Next time, Henry took the Express. He was rushing along when suddenly his brakes jammed at a station. He could not move until they were fixed. James was standing by the other platform. "You're so slow, Henry, you can't even get started!" he teased. At the end of the week, the Fat Controller spoke to the drivers. Then he went to see both engines.

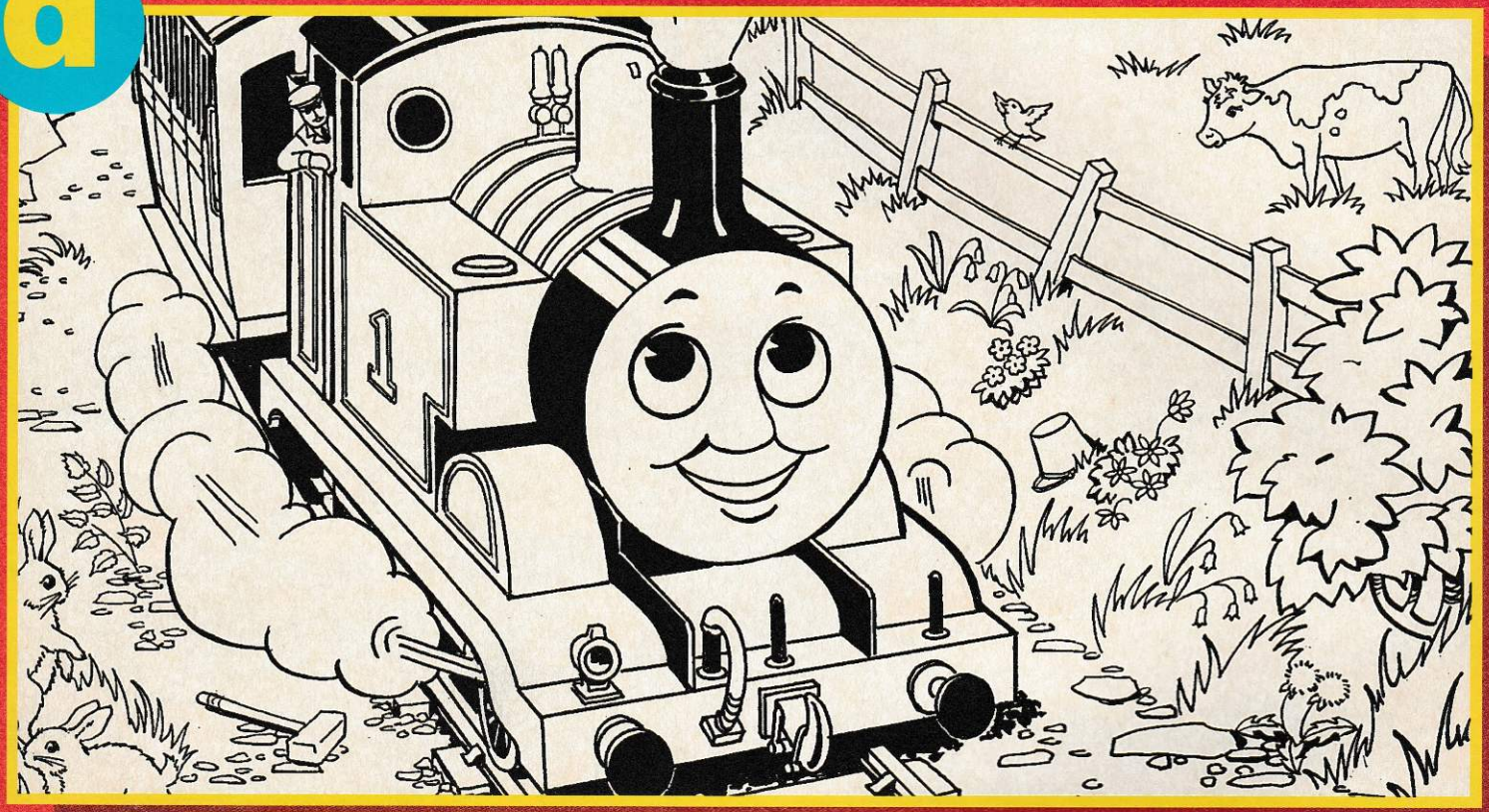
12. "May we race after all, sir?" asked James. "That's what you have been doing all week," said the Fat Controller. As he explained, the engines listened in amazement.

"Your drivers added up your times. It's a tie!" the Fat Controller went on. "Then we're just as fast as each other!" cried James. Both engines laughed until their boilers ached!

Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the five changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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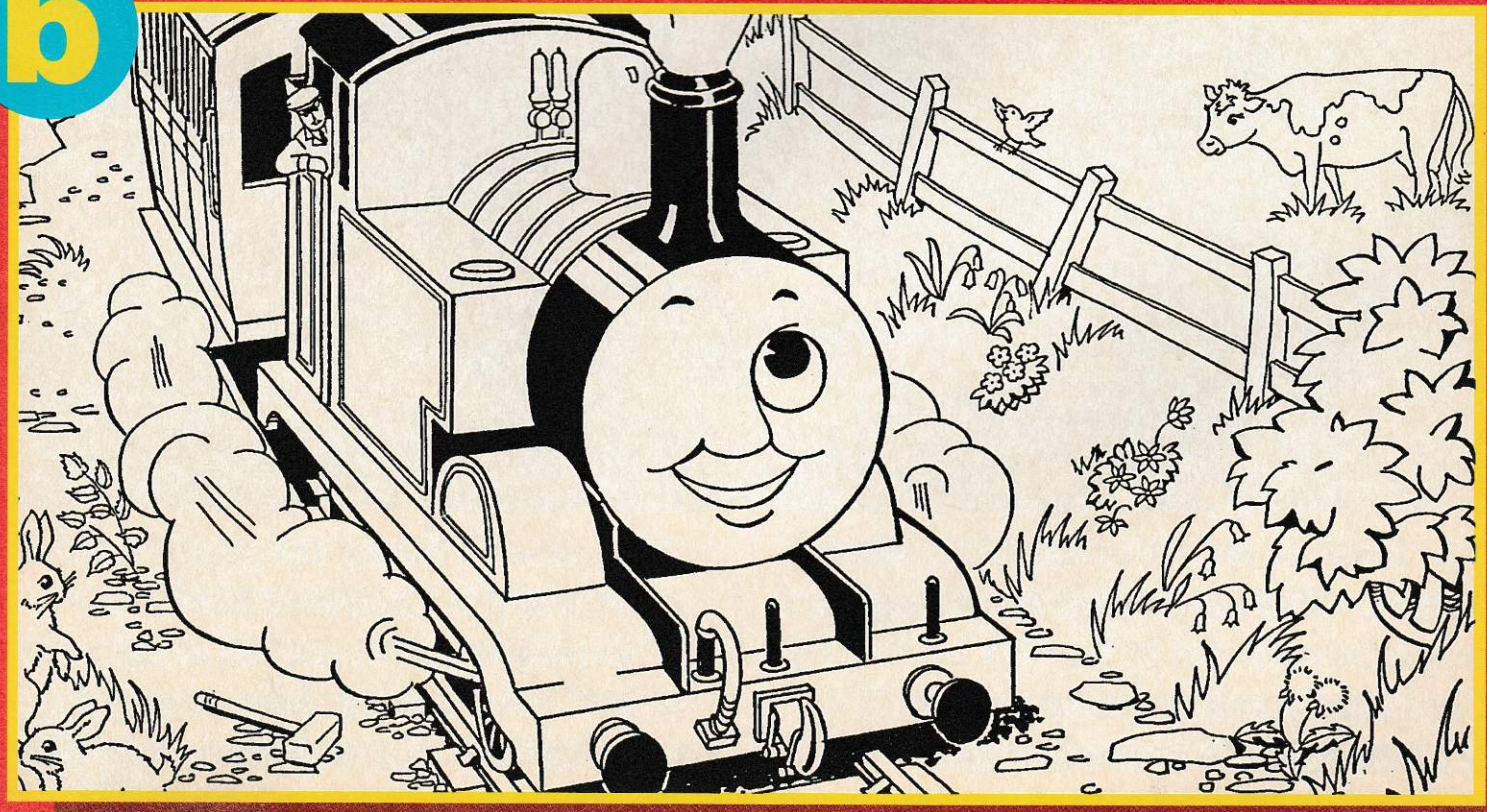


Puzzle fun!

Look at this picture of children playing in the park. Can you answer the questions below?

1. How many children can you see?

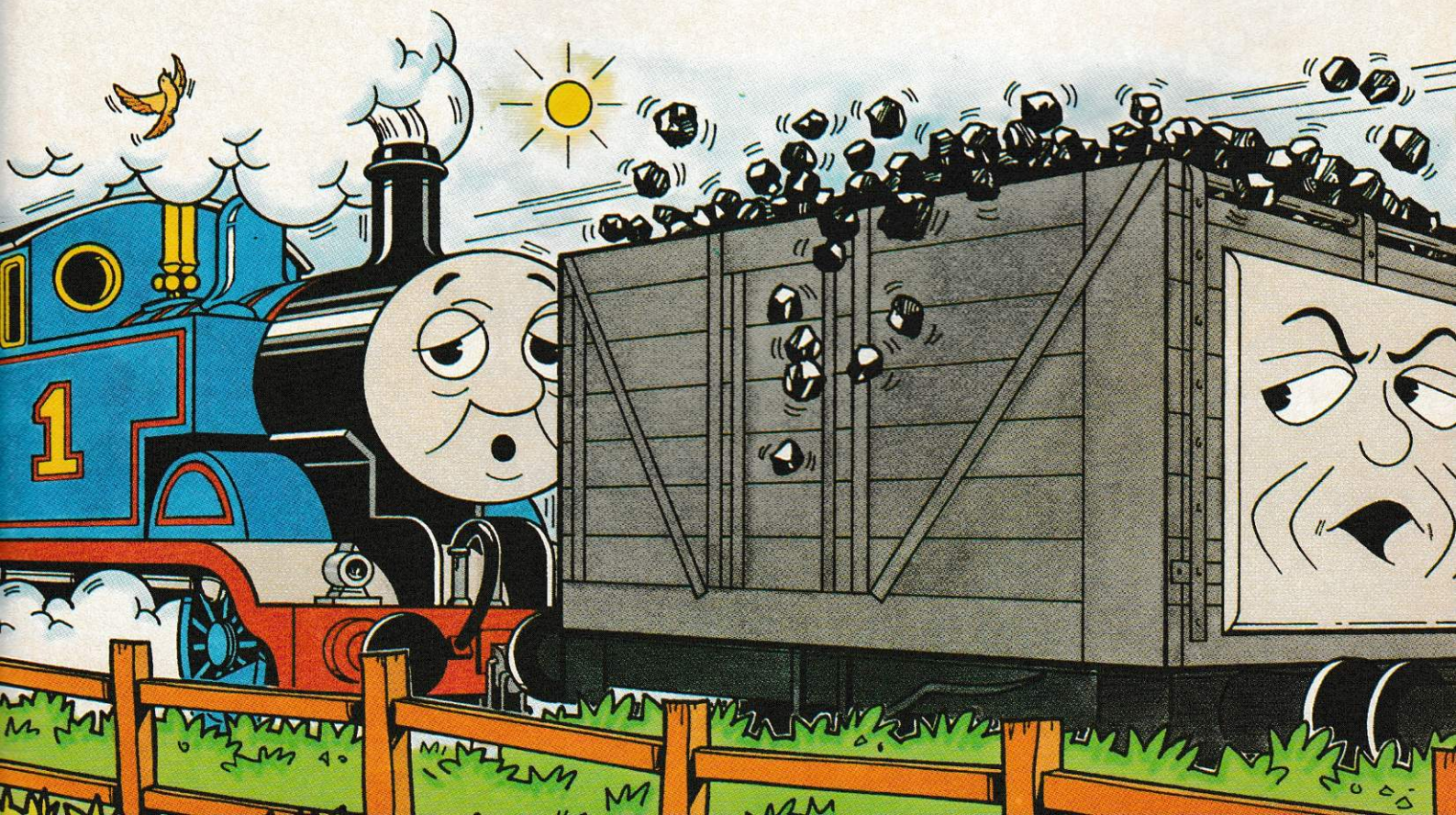
2. How many buckets can you see?

3. How many sandcastles can you see?

Answers: 5 Buckets 10 Children 6 Sandcastles

Sleepy engine!

One night, a cold wind blew across the Island of Sodor. All the engines were fast asleep in their shed, except Thomas. He stood with his coal bunker against a window which did not shut properly. It was very drafty and kept him awake all night. Next morning, the wind had dropped and the sun was shining. "What a lovely day," said Mavis. "I can't wait to start work." "I can't wait to get some sleep tonight," grumbled Thomas. "I hope the wind doesn't blow again." Thomas was very busy. But he was so tired, he kept making mistakes. When he shunted some coal trucks, Thomas caused them to bump about and spill their loads. "Be careful! You're troublesome Thomas!" cried the angry trucks. "I'm sorry," he replied, wearily. "It's usually trucks who are

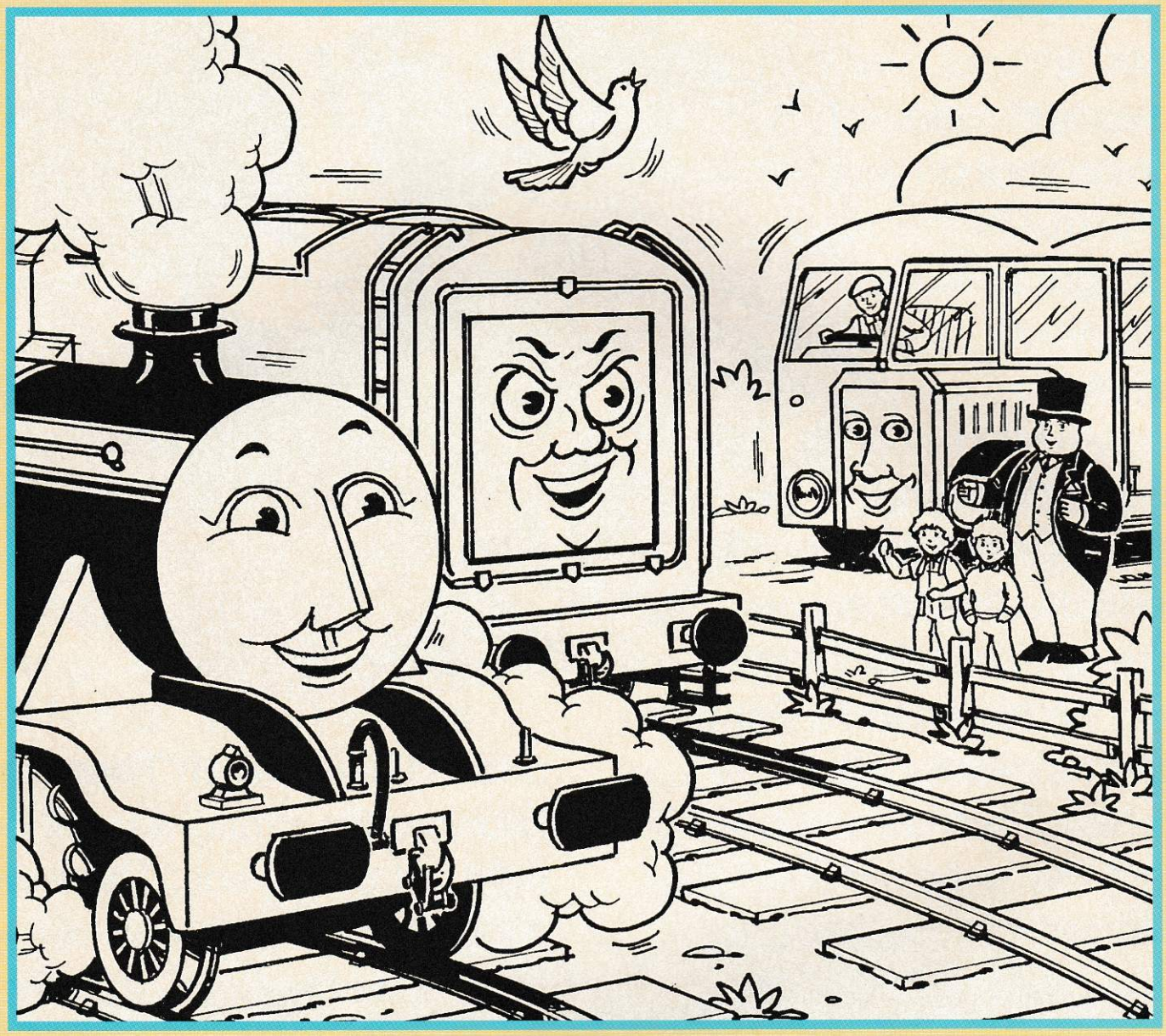


troublesome!" Next, Thomas hit the buffers in a siding and was almost derailed. Later, as he pulled a passenger train he overshot a platform. Then he forgot to stop at another station altogether! Passengers rang the Fat Controller to complain. "It's time you woke up!" he told Thomas when he returned to the Main station. "I wish I could," yawned Thomas, explaining about the shed window. "My workmen are too busy to repair it today," the Fat Controller replied. Thomas felt more miserable than ever, especially when it began to get windy again. He knew he would not sleep for another night. Thomas was uncoupled from his carriages. Then he had to back up towards the engine shed. But because he was so tired he went too far

and hit it. CRASH! Thomas knocked the draughty window right out of the wall. There was a big hole. "I've no choice now," said the Fat Controller, "I'll have to have it mended right away." "Please, sir, I didn't mean it, it was an accident," said Thomas, unhappily. "Oh well these things happen," said the Fat Controller. That night, the wind whistled outside. But in the engine shed, Thomas had a good sleep at last!

A read & colour story

Turntable trick!

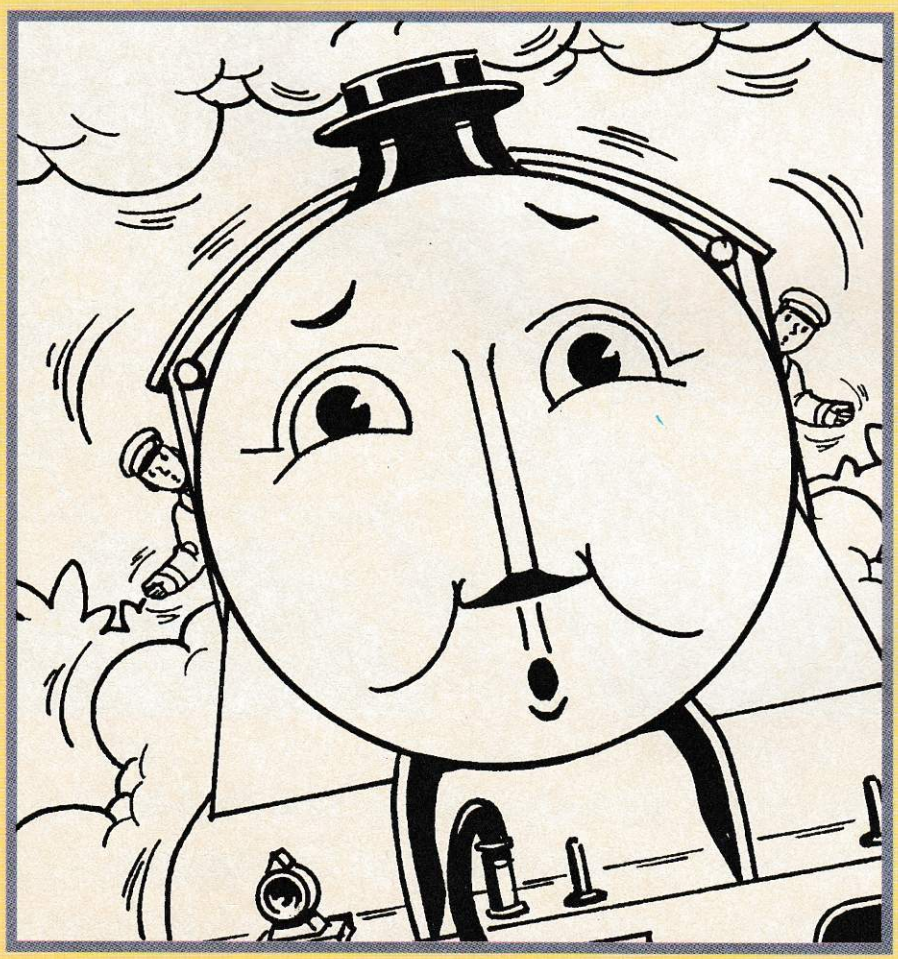


1 One day, the Fat Controller told the engines that they would be having some very special visitors. "Bertie is bringing them this afternoon," he said. "I want you all to show them that you are Really Useful Engines." That afternoon, the engines waited for their visitors to arrive.

"They're probably coming to see me, boasted Gordon. "After all, I am the fastest engine on the railway line." "You're also the biggest show-off," scowled Diesel. "Look!" said Thomas excitedly. "Here's Bertie with our visitors!" The visitors were children from the local school. "I love children," said Thomas.

2 The children were as excited to see the engines, as the engines were to see the children! Gordon decided to give the children a real treat and show them the engine turntable. "Children," he called, "look at me!"

3 Then Diesel rolled up. When no one was watching, he bumped the lever on the turntable as hard as he could so that it stuck in the 'on' position. The turntable kept spinning round and round, and so did Gordon! "Stop the turntable!" cried Gordon. "I want to get off!" Gordon's driver and the Fat Controller both pulled hard to unstick the lever.

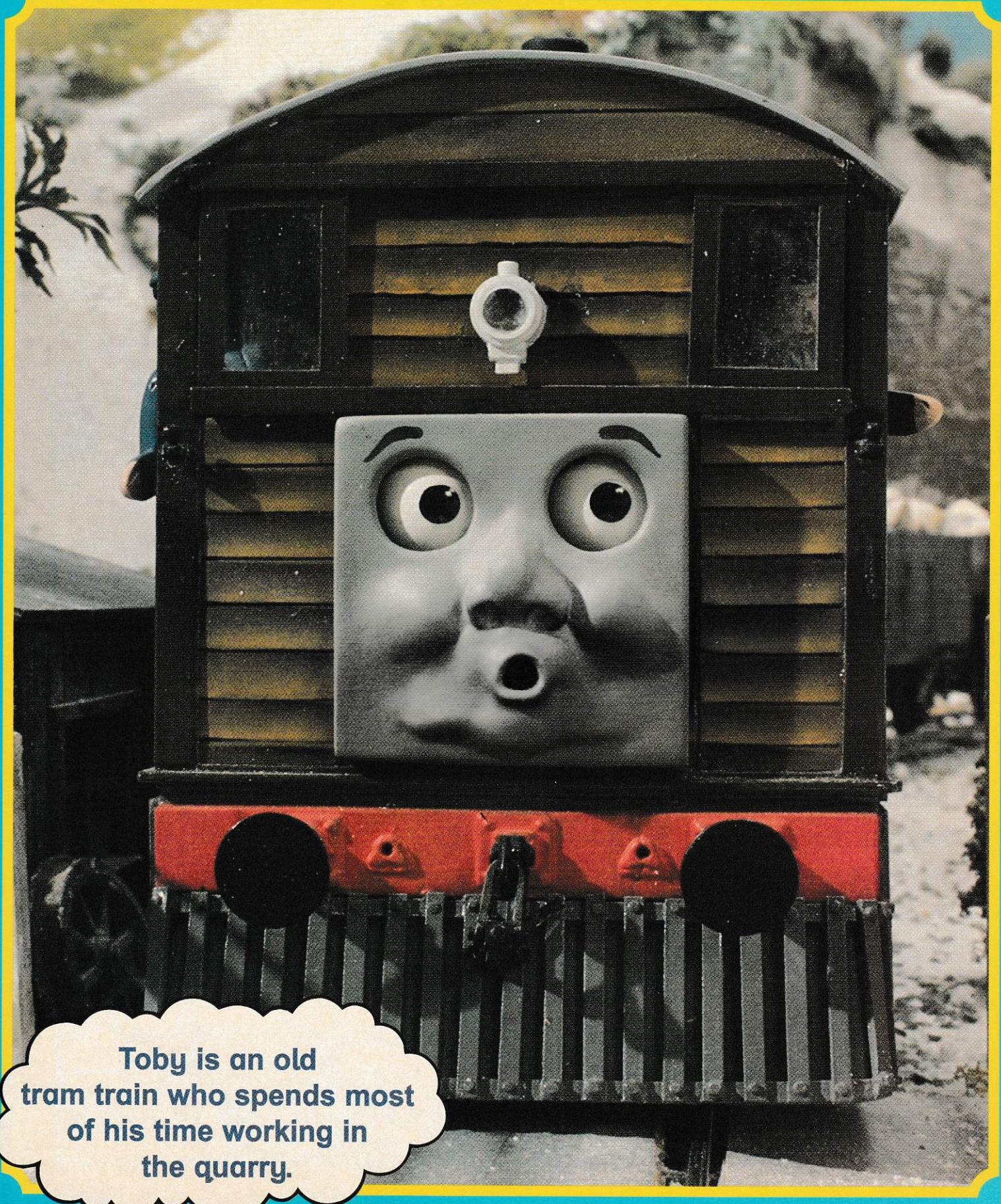


4 When the turntable finally stopped, Gordon rolled off. He felt awfully peculiar, as if he'd stopped spinning, but everything else was still going round! The children laughed and laughed! Diesel tried to sneak away, but the Fat Controller was very angry with him. "Diesel, you have not been a Really Useful Engine." he said. "I don't like your tricks."

5 The Fat Controller continued showing the children around the station. "Can we ride on one of your engines?" they all asked. The Fat Controller smiled. "Thomas, would you like to give these children a ride?" "Yes sir, I would," said Thomas. "But perhaps Gordon would like to do it. He's not dizzy any more, and he's awfully upset." The Fat Controller agreed. Gordon was delighted as the children climbed into his carriages. "Oh, thank you, sir," he said to the Fat Controller." I don't want you showing off any more," the Fat Controller warned him. "No sir," said Gordon happily. "From now on, I will be a Really Useful Engine."

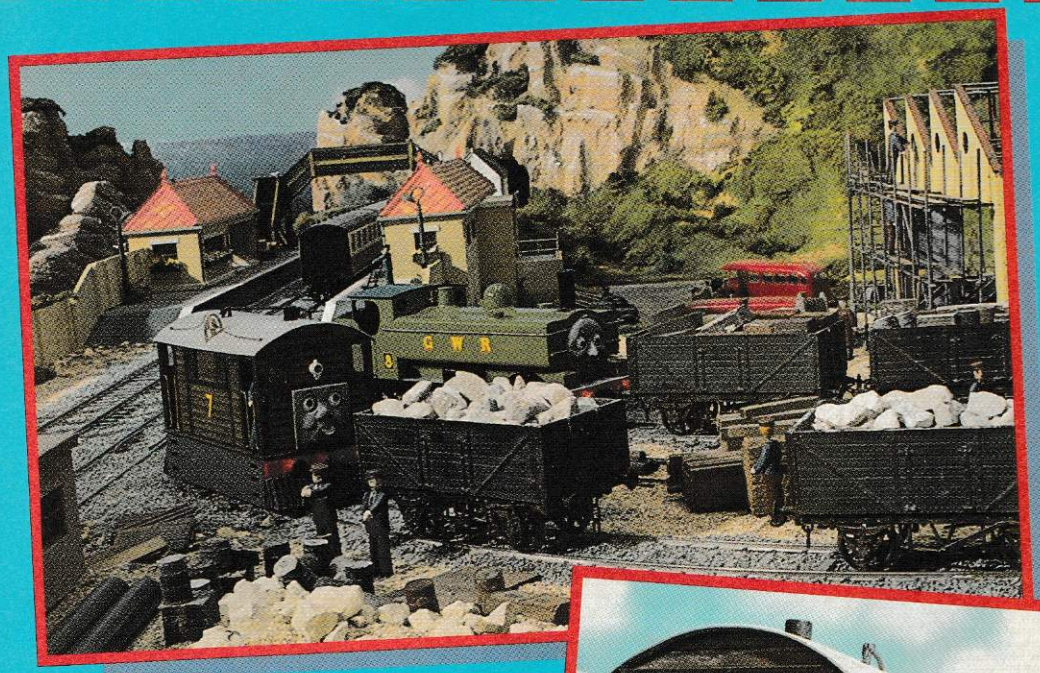
The end

All abou



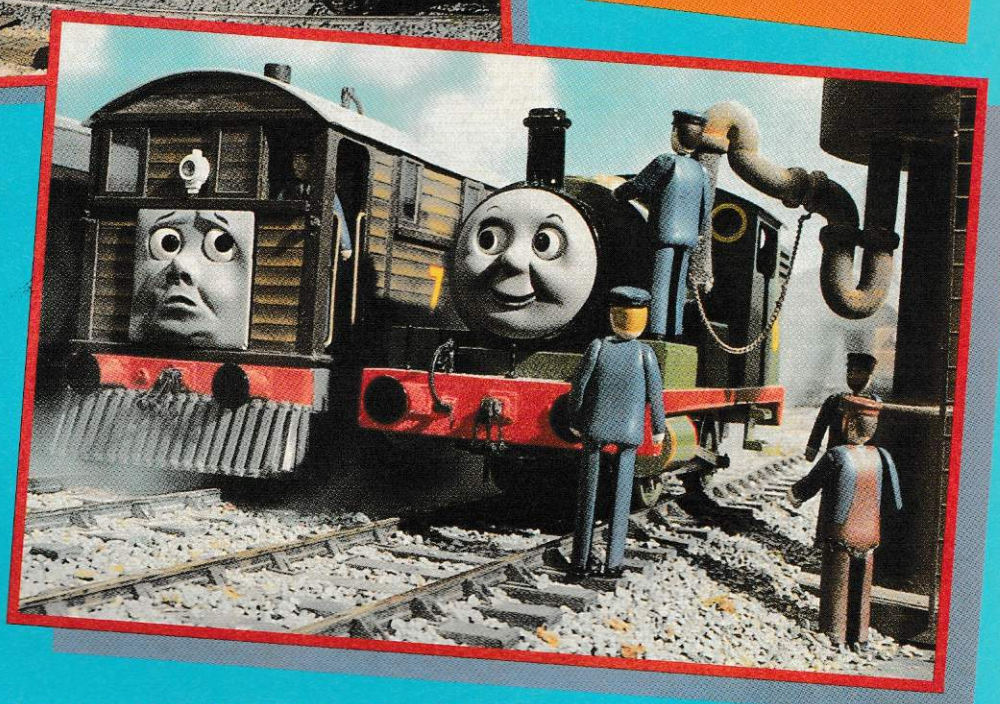
Toby is an old tram train who spends most of his time working in the quarry.

ut Toby!



Once, Toby was nearly scrapped, so he doesn't mind working hard to prove that he is still Really Useful.

Sometimes Toby gets in bad moods, but he soon lets off steam!

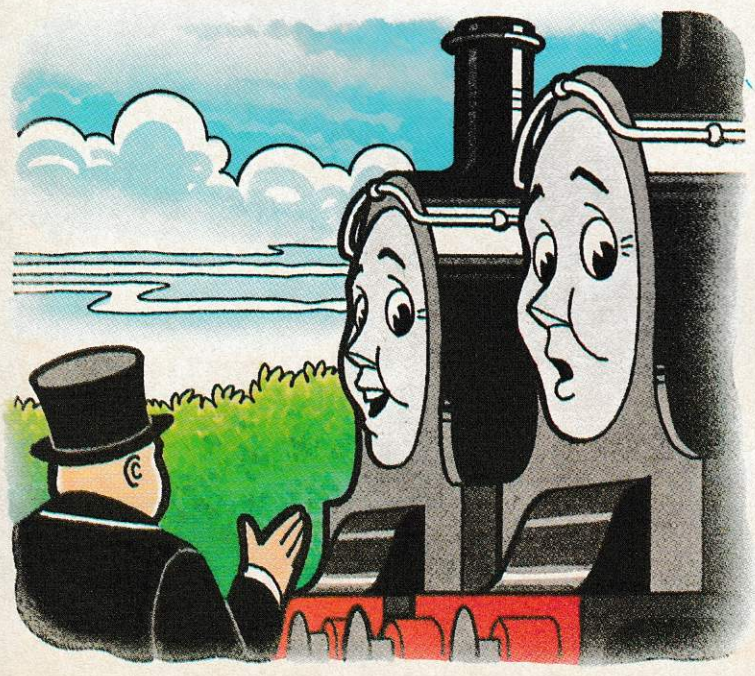


Win a model Toby!

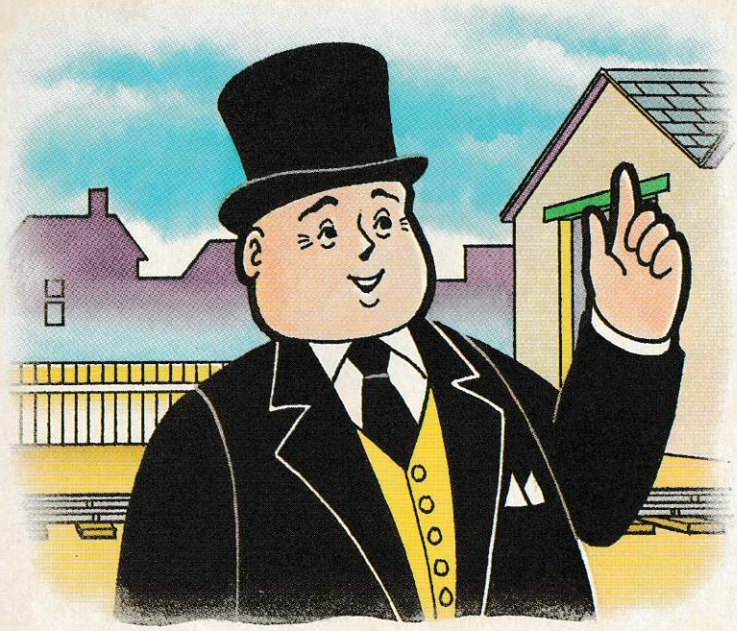
Five lucky readers will win a splendid model Toby from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Toby model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date for entries: June 21st 1996. The first five names out of our post-bag after the closing date will win their very own Toby!

Fair play

One morning, Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins, were arguing about who should take a very big goods train. "Och Not me! puffed Donald. "Or me!" huffed Douglas. "I always have to do the heavy work." The Fat Controller and his grandchildren Stephen and Bridget were preparing to go out for the day. When they heard the twins squabbling, they hurried over to see what was going on.



"What's the matter?" the Fat Controller asked. The engines explained how they both thought they did more work than the other. "I know," said the Fat Controller. "You can both take the goods train." The engines looked puzzled. "It's simple," he continued. "If you share the work, it won't be as hard or take so long. One of you can pull the train and the other can push it."



The twins agreed. Donald was coupled to the trucks and Douglas went behind and got ready to push. Their argument was soon forgotten and it wasn't long before they had set off with their heavy load. Stephen and Bridget thought the Fat Controller's idea was very clever. "Well, now that's settled, we can get ready for our day in the country!"

Lady Hatt had been busy all morning preparing a lovely picnic for their outing. The Fat Controller had been busy too. As well as sorting out the trouble with the twins, he had arranged for Thomas to take them to some meadows on the other side of the island.

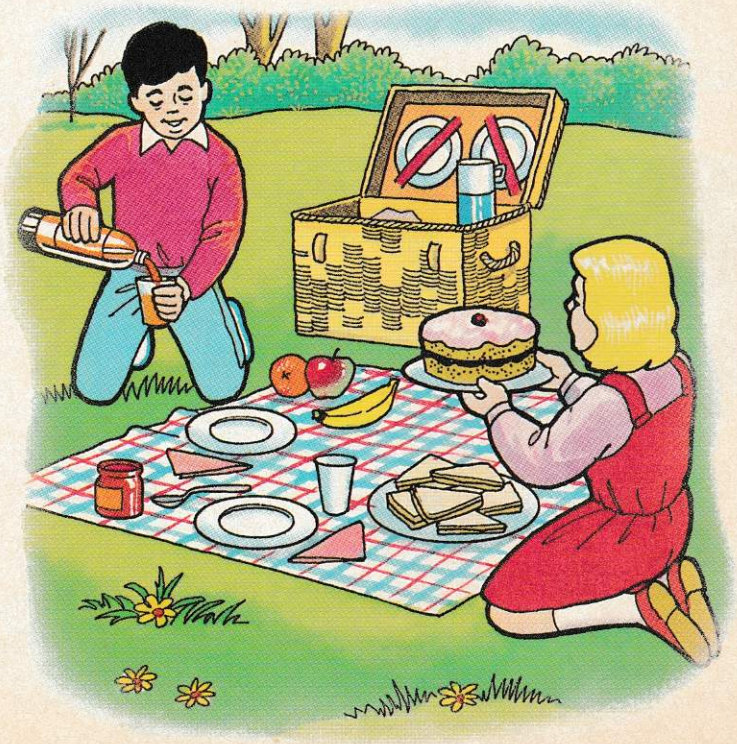
They all climbed aboard Annie and set off on their journey. They played a game of "I spy" to pass the time. "I spy something beginning with 'p'," said Stephen. "I know! Picnic!" said Bridget. Lady Hatt smiled, she could tell that Bridget was looking forward to her lunch!

It wasn't long before they had arrived at the meadows. The Fat Controller lifted the picnic hamper down from Thomas and they set off along the path. Stephen and Bridget ran about looking for a good picnic spot. They chose a place where lots of daisies and buttercups were growing.

"Now all we have to do is lay out our picnic," said Lady Hatt smiling. "We'll do that!" called Stephen and Bridget together. They spread a big rug on the ground and put out plastic plates and cups. Stephen poured lemonade while Bridget arranged sandwiches and cake.

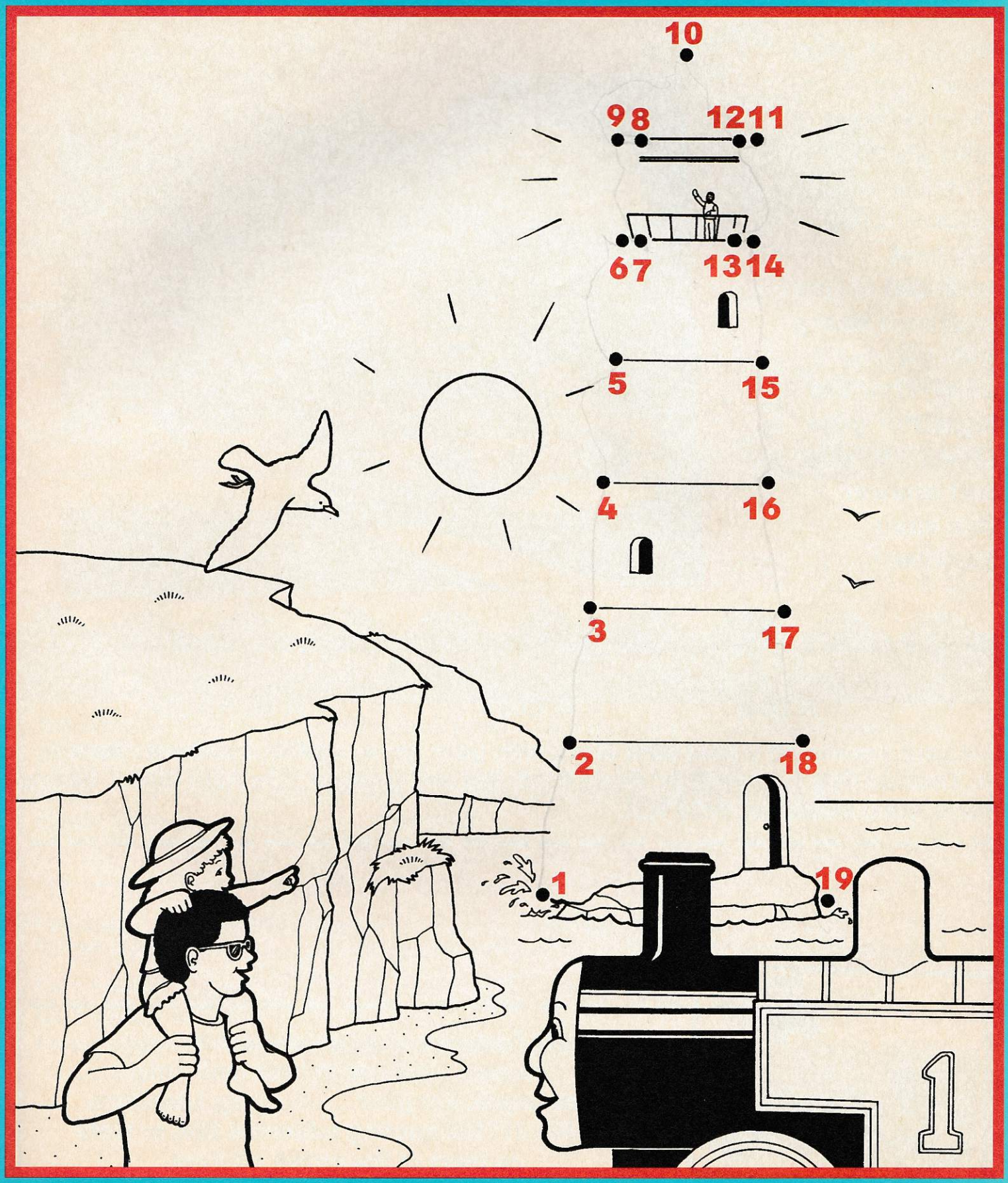
"It's only fair to share the work," said Bridget. "Just like Donald and Douglas did!" "Mmmm, I can't wait to share this cake!" laughed Stephen. "And I'm glad I'm sharing my afternoon off with all of you!" smiled the Fat Controller.

THE END



Dot to dot!

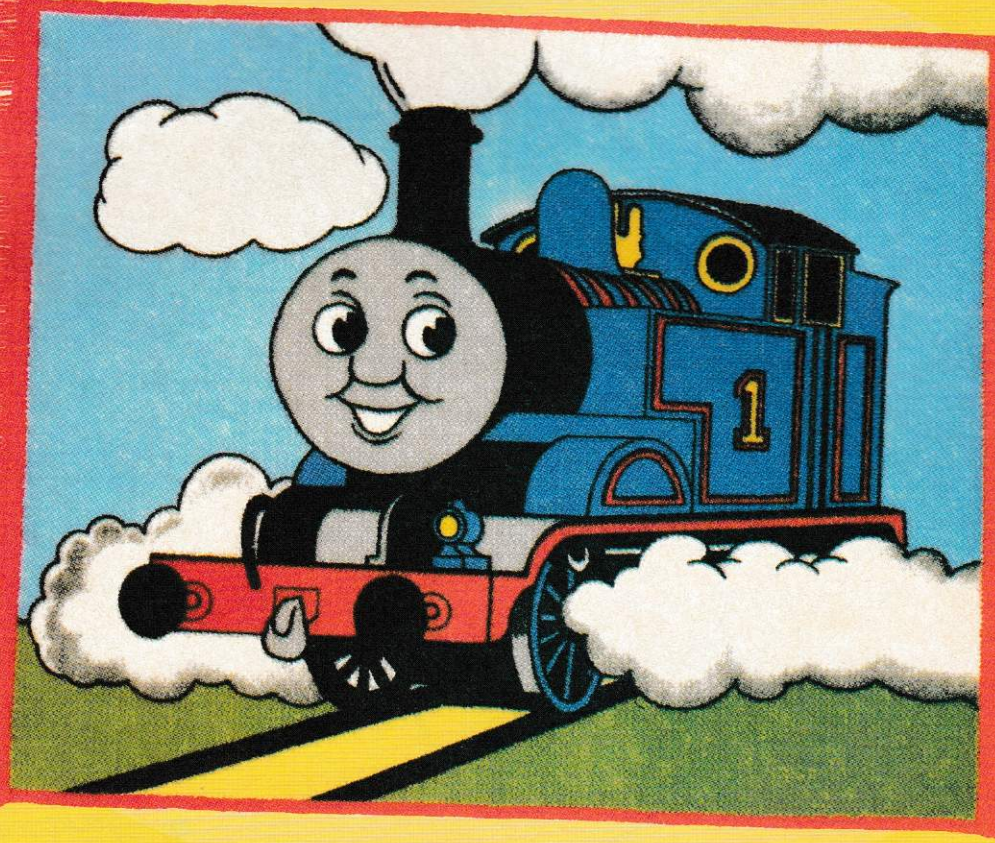
Which tall building is Thomas visiting today?



When you have finished colour this page!

WIN a colourful Thomas rug!

We've got 15 of these fabulous Thomas rugs to offer as prizes! This soft and colourful rug will look splendid in your bedroom along with all your other Thomas toys! For your chance to win, just answer this easy question:



What piece of furniture would you find in the Fat Controller's station office?

a A bed **b** A desk **c** A wardrobe

Put your answer on a post card along with your name, age and address. Send it to: Thomas Rug Competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR. Make sure your entry arrives by 19th June 1996.

SPECIAL OFFER! These lovely Thomas rugs normally cost £15.50, but readers of Marvel's Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends can buy one for just **£13.50** and it will be posted to them absolutley **FREE!** Just ring Heart Fashions on the number below and quote the reference 226.

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182 quoting reference 226, or write to them at the above address.

This competition is open to all readers, except employees of participating companies and their families. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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Child's name ..... Address .....

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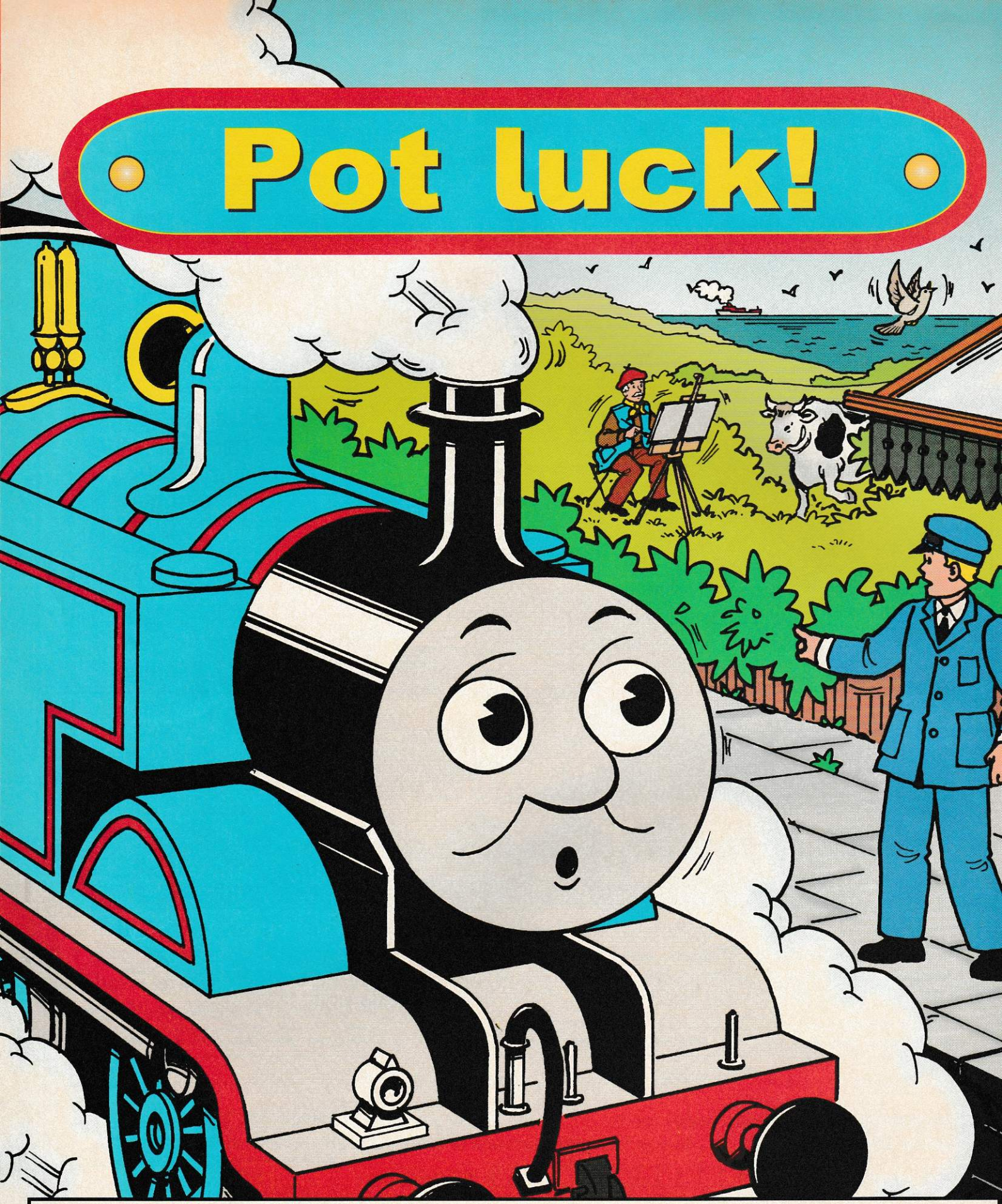
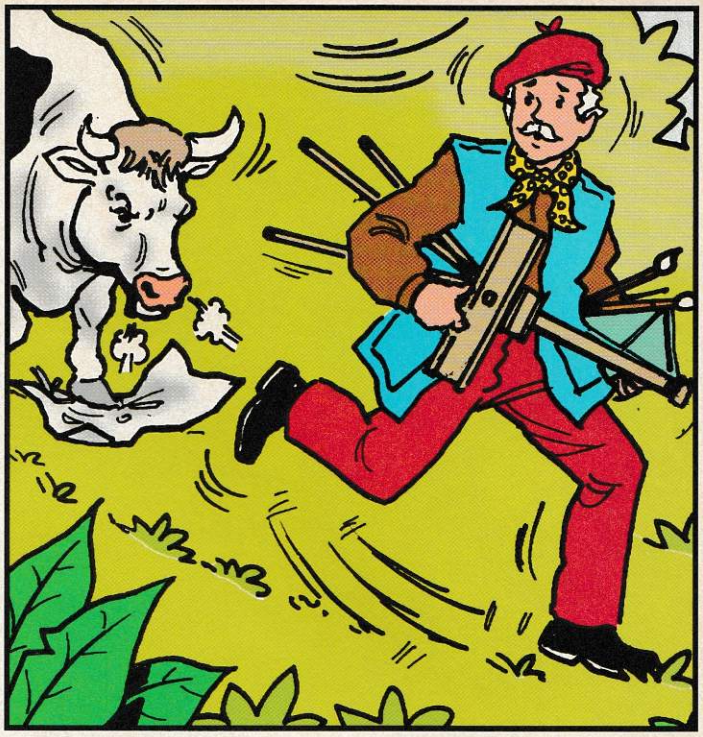
Pot luck!



1. One bright morning, Thomas was puffing through the countryside with his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. He spotted a man painting a picture in a field.

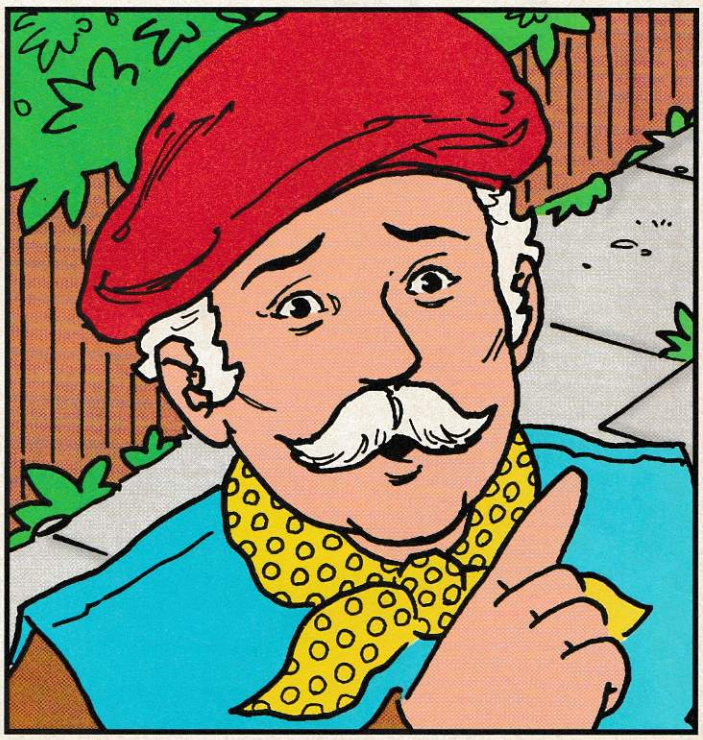
2. As Thomas pulled in at a nearby station, he saw a big bull appear from the far end of the field. It had been lying down, out of sight, below a steep slope.

3. The man had not seen it. "Peep! Peeep!" Thomas whistled urgently and his driver shouted. Startled, the man snatched up his picture and paints and ran as fast as he could.

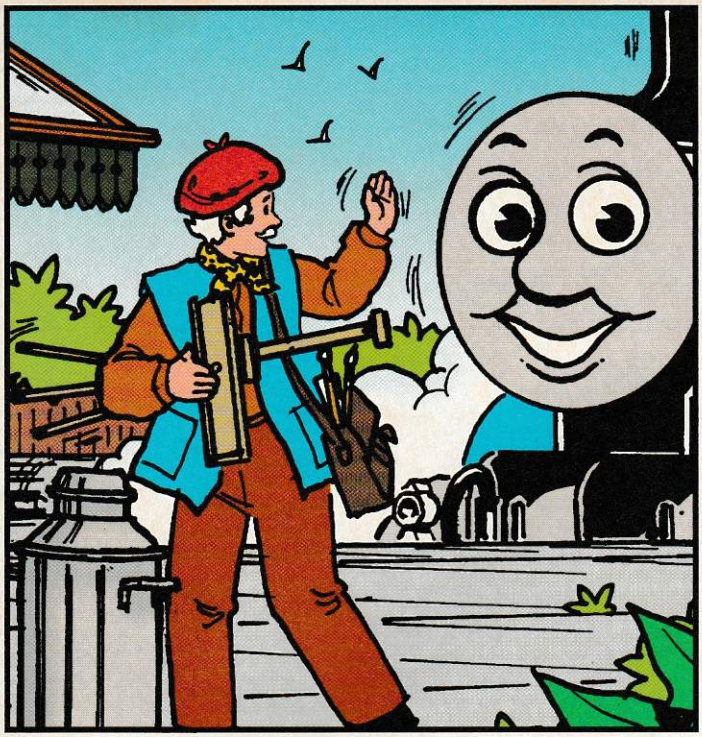


4. Huffing and puffing, the bull chased him. The man escaped through a gate just in time, but he dropped his painting. The bull trampled all over it. "What a shame!" said Thomas.

5. The man came to thank Thomas and his driver for their warning. "I'll catch your train home," he said. He explained that he was an artist, but he had not sold many paintings lately.

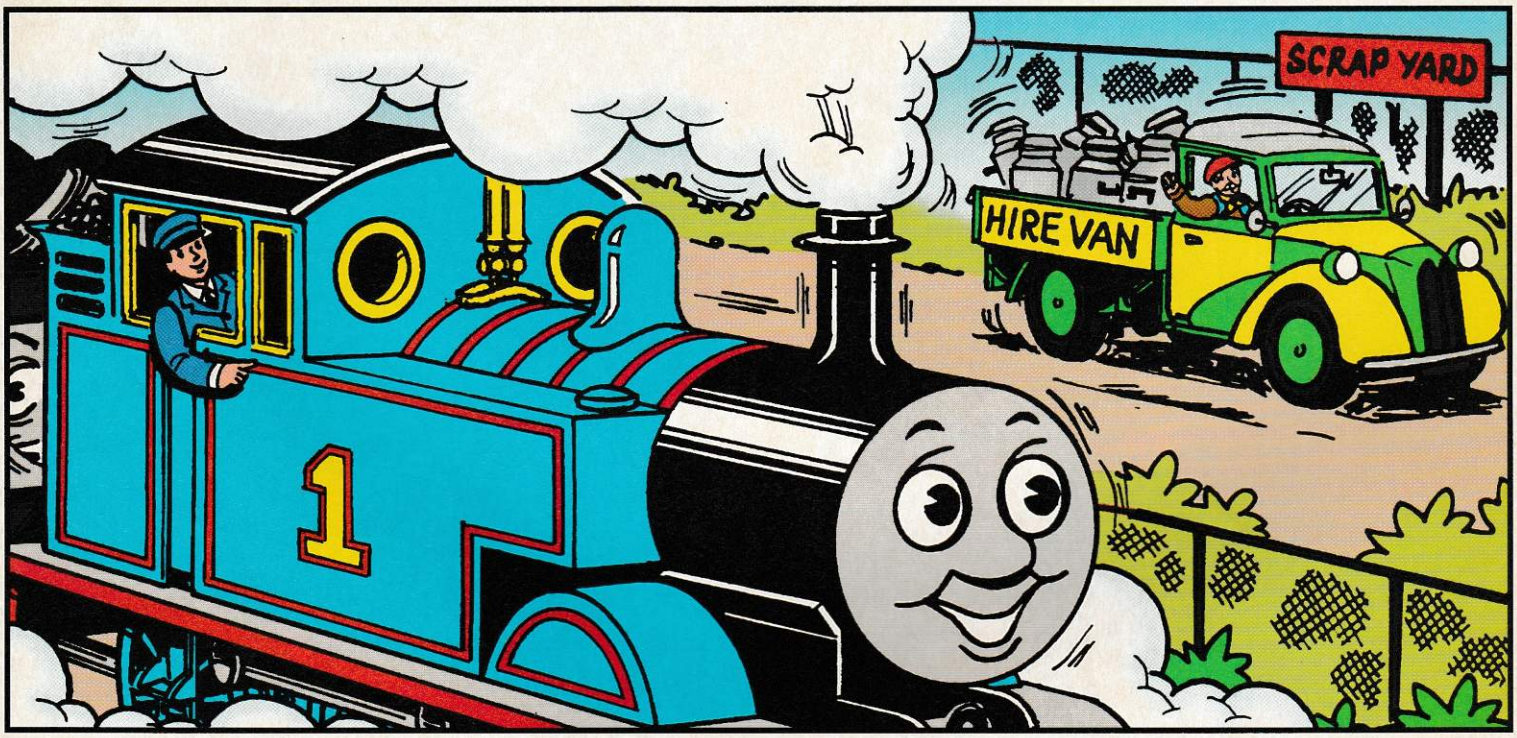


6. "It's a pity my new picture was spoilt. I was hoping to sell it at an exhibition I'm holding shortly," said the artist sadly. He climbed aboard Annie and Thomas set off.



7. At another station, the artist stepped out onto the platform. As he turned to wave goodbye to Thomas, he bumped into a big milk churn and knocked it over.

8. There was a loud CRASH! The lid fell off the churn and milk spilt everywhere. "It's just not my day," groaned the artist. Thomas felt very sorry for him.



9. The following afternoon, Thomas was taking some broken engine wheels to a scrap-yard. He was surprised to see the artist there, too. "Hello!" he called to Thomas' driver.

10. The artist was buying some old milk churns which he loaded into a van. "Why do you want those?" asked Thomas' driver. "You'll soon see," the artist replied, then drove away.

11. A few weeks later, he called at the Main Station. The artist spoke to the Fat Controller, who fetched Thomas from the yard. "There's something for you," said the Fat Controller, pointing. Thomas stared in surprise. The artist had brought a very special milk churn. It was planted with flowers and had Thomas' face on the side. "It's a present from me," the artist smiled.

12. "If I hadn't met Thomas, I wouldn't have knocked over the milk churn," the man went on. "That gave me the idea to make special plant-pots. I sold lots at my exhibition and I have orders for many more." Thomas' driver stood the painted pot near the engine shed. "That was a lucky day for me, after all," laughed the artist. "And for me," thought Thomas, proudly.

The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

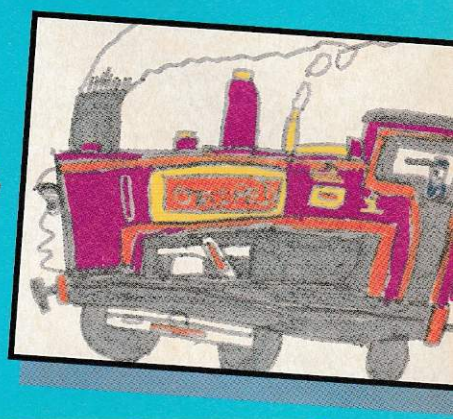
Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller
Is Diesel always horrid and mean? If so, why do you let him stay on at your railway?
Love from Conor Wilkinson, aged 3.

You're right, Diesel can be horrid, but he is a very Useful Engine and deep down he has a heart of gold!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

This beautiful drawing of Godred was sent in by Joe Dawson, aged 6.



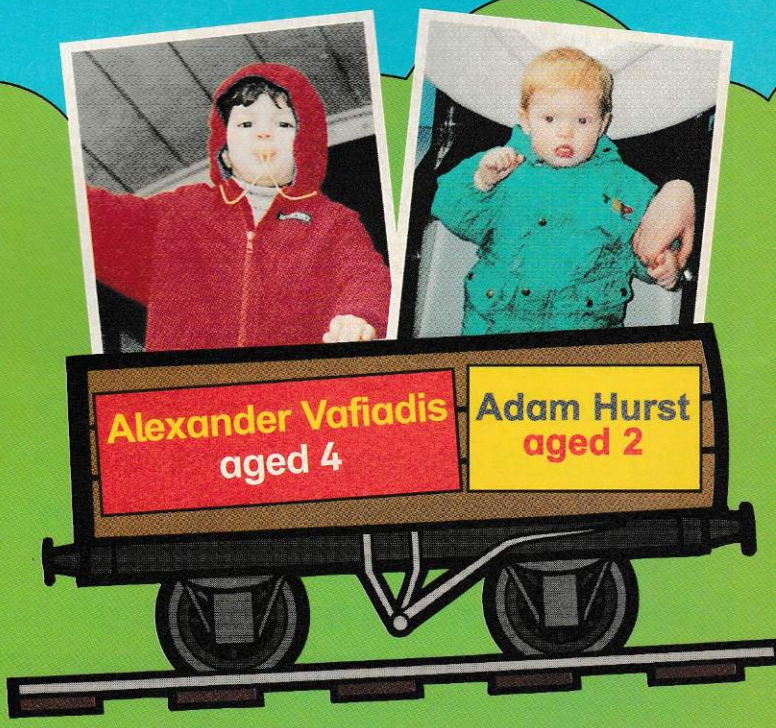
Prize Poem!

A big thank you to Siobhan Ferguson, aged 6 who sent us this little ditty!

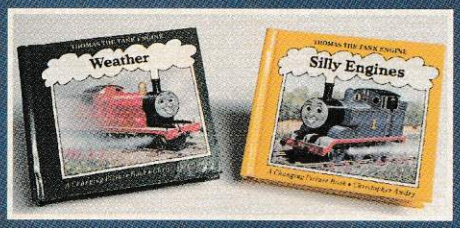
Thomas lives in Sodor,
He sleeps in the engine shed,
He works from when the sun comes up,
Until he goes to bed!

Happy Birthday

TO: Lee Morgan, Sammy Phillips, Simon Pilecki, Jessica Tinney, Clyde Muir and Danusia O'Brien.

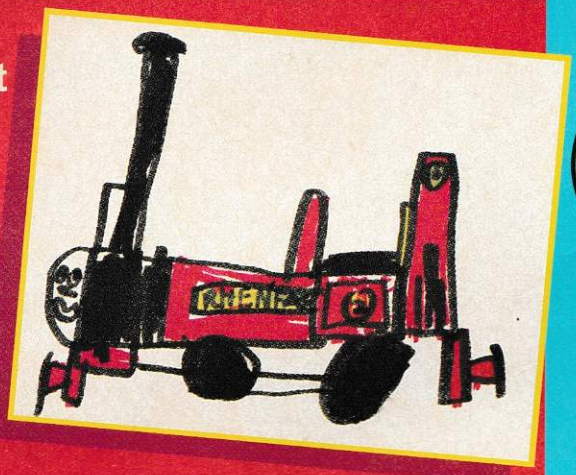


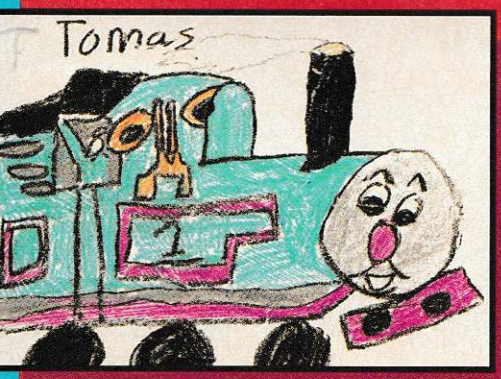
ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Rheneas is such a smart red engine! Nathan Houghton, aged 5 sent us this splendid picture.





Alexander King, aged 7 years drew this lovely picture of Thomas for his brother Joshua.

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What do you call a dinosaur with one eye?
Duthinkhesaurus!
From Richard Harris, aged 6.

What's black, white and red all over? A penguin with sunburn!
From Anna Bendell, aged 5.

What do you call a Camel with 3 humps?
Humphrey!
From Mark Brown, aged 6.

Max aged 2

Jessica Tinney aged 2

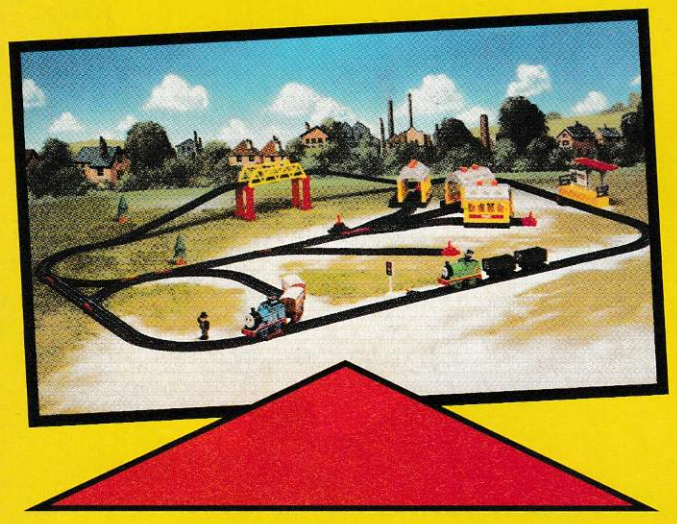
Peep! Peep! Hang on tight for . . .

Issue 227 of

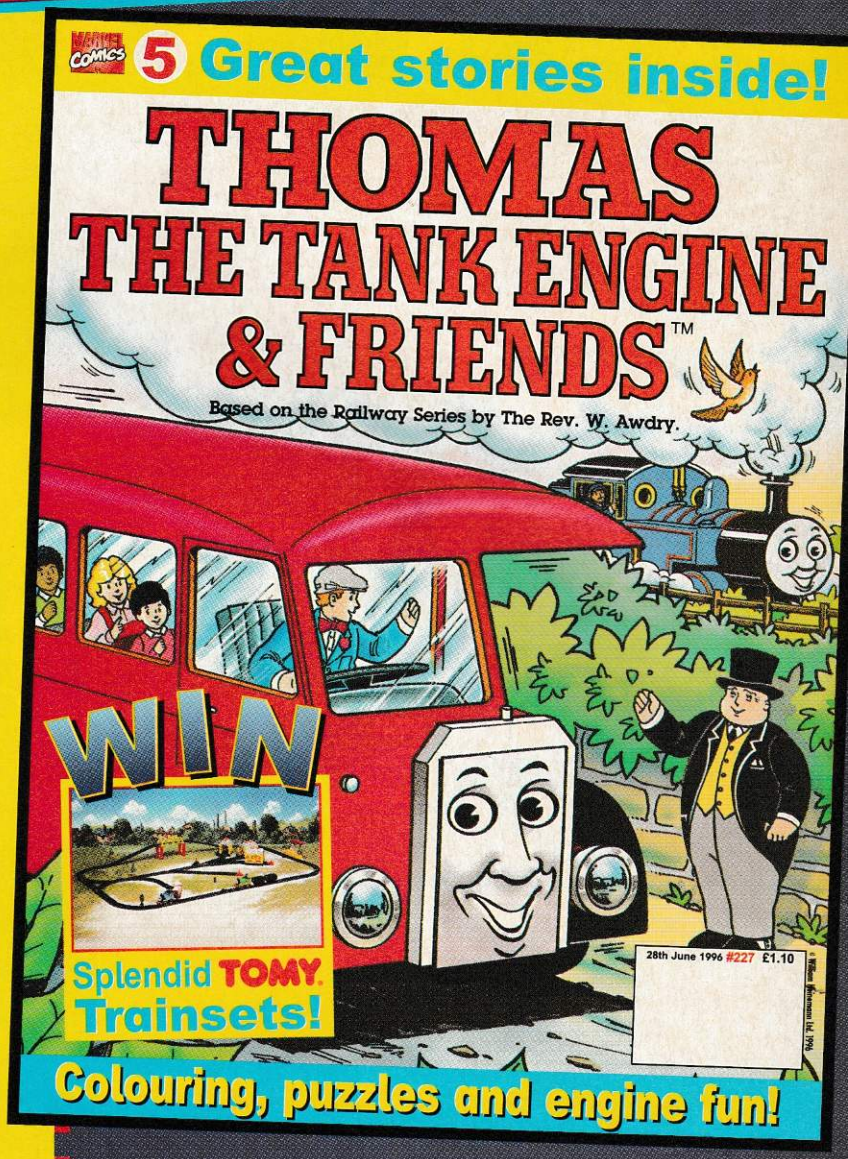
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Great stories to read!

Fun puzzles to do!



Prizes to WIN!



DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian

.....

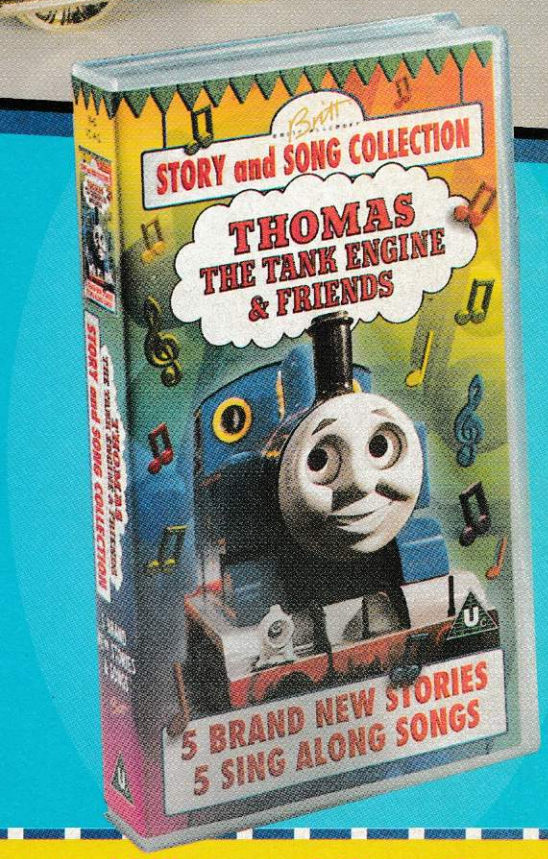
Thank you

Win Thomas The Tank Engine Club goodies!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™ CLUB

All aboard for the Thomas the Tank Engine Club competition! The brand new Thomas Club is the official membership club for fans of Britt Allcroft's Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends. It is celebrating its launch by giving away some fantastic prizes!

Five prize winners will become honorary members of the Thomas the Tank Engine Club for a whole year! They will also receive a special gold coloured, limited edition, Thomas die-cast model from Ertl and a copy of the latest Thomas video containing 5 brand new stories and 5 sing along songs. To enter this exciting competition all you have to do is answer this simple question:



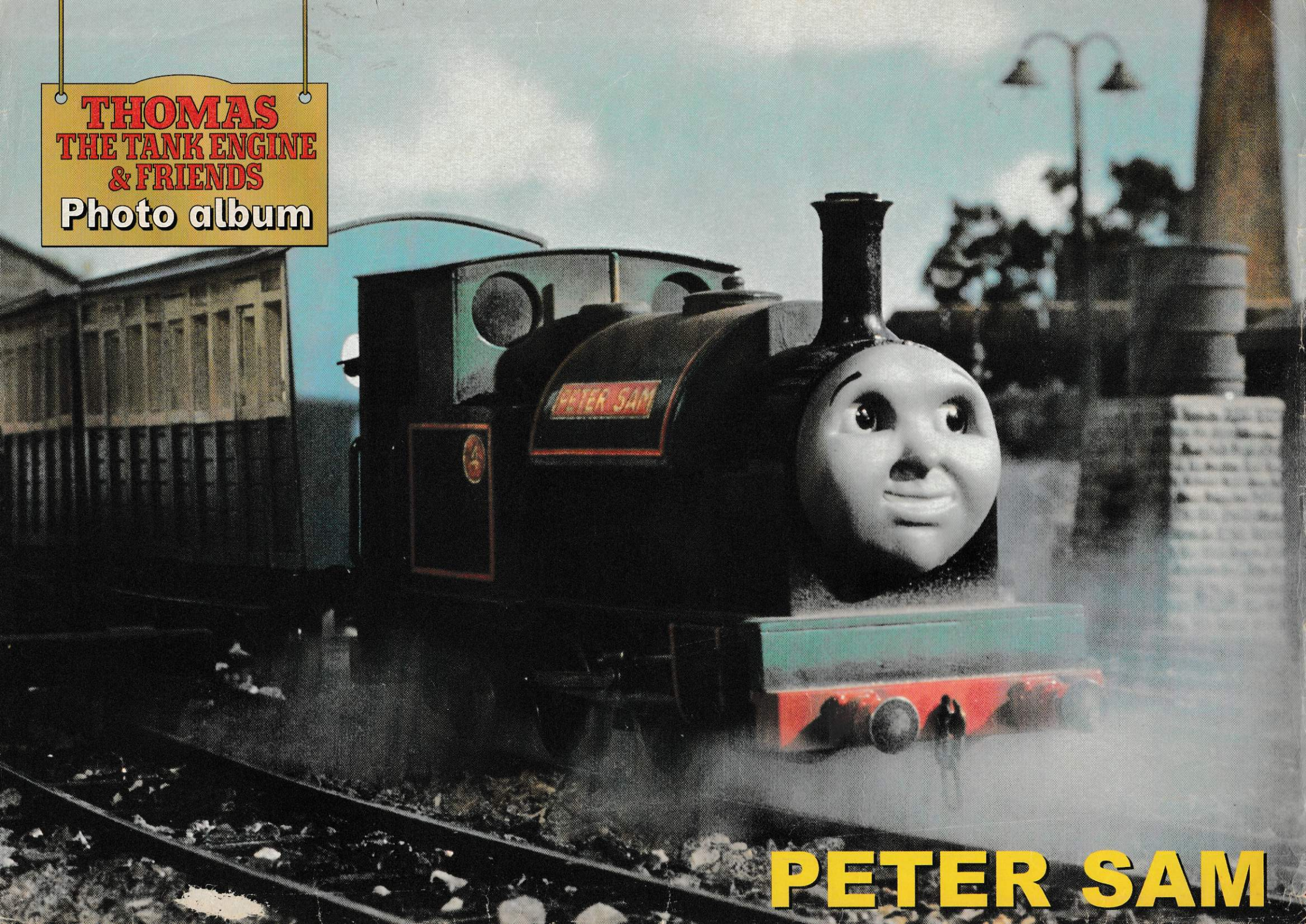
On which island do Thomas and his friends live?

Send your answer on a post card, along with your name, age and address to: Thomas Club Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Entries to arrive by 19th June 1996.

If you would like more information about the Thomas the Tank Engine Club, please write to The Thomas Club, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford, WD2 2NA or contact the 24 hour Thomas Club line on 0541 542542 quoting code MV/96. One year's membership costs just £9.99 and credit card orders can be accepted.

Britt™
BRITT ALLCROFT

This competition is open to all readers, except employees of participating companies and their families. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.


THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
PETER SAM
PETER SAM